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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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IBM CORP (YA)			ROBINSON BOYCE, AKIBA K	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/697,918	CHAGOLY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Akiba K. Robinson-Boyce	3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Due to communications filed 3/19/07, the following is a final office action. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application and have been examined on the merits. Claims 1-21 are rejected as follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-11, 13, 14, 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Squire et al (US 6,970,101).

As per claim 1, Squire et al discloses:

Retentively storing a user profile in a profile database, wherein said user profile contains at least one user preference concerning preferred parking parameters that pertain to a parking space, (Col. 11, lines 30-33, and lines 51-53, providing/submitting customer preferences to receive assignment of a parking space, which is communicated to a database processor. In this case, preference information is passed to the database processor, which in this case, represents the profile database since at least one preference makes up a user profile);

providing a parking database including data concerning parking parameters for each of a plurality of parking spaces under the control of a parking management system, (Abstract, lines 2-4, identifying characteristics of parking spaces stored in database);

determining a list of available parking spaces, (Col. 12, lines 46-48, list of available parking spaces is sorted); and

responsive to a user communication with the parking management system, retrieving from said profile database a previously stored user profile containing said at least one user preference, (col. 11, line 53-Col. 12, line 15, shows customer submitting his or her preference information, which represents the user communication, also shows retrieval of ticket information, which is representative of user preferences since ticket information is no more than a hardcopy of assignment information, and to receive an assignment of a parking space, customer must enter in preference information, and therefore, both assignment information, and ticket information are representative of preference information. The retrieval of profile information is therefore represented by the retrieval of ticket information); and

responsive to said user communication with the parking management system, providing an optimal available parking space based on the previously stored user profile, the parking database, and the list of available parking spaces, (Col. 7, line 66-Col. 8, line 2, determines optimal match of customer preferences and available parking spaces, w/Col. 12, lines 48-50, list is displayed and a ticket with a parking space number is printed and available to customer).

As per claims 3, 13, Squire et al discloses:

wherein the data concerning preferred parking parameters includes a set of parameters and, for each parameter within the set of parameters, a preference value and a priority, (col. 8, lines 25-31, prioritized list, w/ col. 10, lines 18-37, list of customer preferences is stored to represent each preference relative to importance, especially, lines 22-32, [see chart], where the set of parameters = handicapped parking, safety level, etc, preference values = 1,2, and priority = P1, P2, etc).

As per claims 4, 14, Squire et al discloses:

wherein the user profile is a default profile, (Col. 10, lines 14-17, some data regarding customer preference may be assessed automatically, w/ lines 33-34, default value applied).

As per claims 7, 17, Squire et al discloses:

wherein said stored user profile contains at least one user preference concerning a parking parameter selected for a group that includes *at least one* of an identification, an indication of whether a parking space is occupied, an indication of whether the parking space is designated as handicapped, an indication of whether a pole is on one side of the parking space, a distance from an elevator lobby, a distance from an entrance or exit, and an indicator of whether the parking space is on an end of a row, (Col. 9, line 15, parking space descriptor includes handicapped parking).

As per claims 8, 18, Squire et al discloses:

wherein determining a list of available parking spaces includes receiving sensor information from a plurality of sensors, wherein each sensor within the plurality of

sensors indicates whether a given parking space is occupied, (Col. 7, lines 4-12, vehicle sensor).

As per claims 9, 19, Squire et al discloses:

wherein providing an optimal available parking space includes outputting the optimal available parking space to an output device, (Col. 8, lines 27-28, prioritized list can be displayed).

As per claim 10, 20, Squire et al discloses:

wherein output device is one of a display and a printer, (Col. 8, lines 27-28, displayed or printed).

As per claim 11, Squire et al discloses:

a parking management system, (Col. 2, line 58, parking management system);
a profile database for retentively storing a user profile that contains at least one user preference concerning preferred parking parameters that pertain to a parking space, (Col. 11, lines 30-33, and lines 51-53, providing/submitting customer preferences to receive assignment of a parking space, which is communicated to a database processor. In this case, preference information is passed to the database processor, which in this case, represents the profile database since at least one preference makes up a user profile); and

a parking database including data concerning parking parameters for each of a plurality of parking spaces under the control of a parking management system, (Abstract, lines 2-4, identifying characteristics of parking spaces stored in database).

wherein the parking management system determines a list of available parking spaces, and, in response to a user communication with the parking management system, retrieves from said profile database a previously stored user profile containing said at least one user preference, and, in further response to said user communication, provides an optimal available parking space based on the previously stored user profile, the parking database, and the list of available parking spaces, (Col. 7, line 66-Col. 8, line 2, determines optimal match of customer preferences and available parking spaces, w/Col. 12, lines 46-50, list is available parking spaces sorted, displayed, and a ticket with a parking space number is printed and available to customer, w/col. 11, line 53-Col. 12, line 15, shows customer submitting his or her preference information, which represents the user communication, also shows retrieval of ticket information, which is representative of user preferences since ticket information is no more than a hardcopy of assignment information, and to receive an assignment of a parking space, customer must enter in preference information, and therefore, both assignment information, and ticket information are representative of preference information. The retrieval of profile information is therefore represented by the retrieval of ticket information).

As per claim 21, Squire et al discloses:

instructions for determining a list of available parking spaces, (Col. 12, lines 46-48, list of available parking spaces is sorted); and
instructions, responsive to a user communication with a parking management system, for providing an optimal available parking space based on a user profile retentively stored in a profile database, wherein said user profile contains at least one

user preference, (Col. 7, line 66-Col. 8, line 2, determines optimal match of customer preferences and available parking spaces, w/Col. 12, lines 48-50, list is displayed and a ticket with a parking space number is printed and available to customer, w/Col. 11, lines 30-33, and lines 51-53, providing/submitting customer preferences to receive assignment of a parking space, which is communicated to a database processor, where preference information is passed to the database processor, which in this case, represents the profile database since at least one preference makes up a user profile), concerning preferred parking parameters that pertain to a parking space, (Col. 22, lines 30-33, providing/submitting customer preferences to receive assignment of a parking space), a parking database including data concerning parking parameters for each of a plurality of parking spaces under the control of a parking management system, (Abstract, lines 2-4, identifying characteristics of parking spaces stored in database), and the list of available parking spaces, (Col. 12, lines 46-48, list of available parking spaces is sorted).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 5, 6, 12, 15, 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Squire et al (US 6,970,101) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Zeitman (US 5,940,481).

As per claim 2, Squire et al does not specifically disclose wherein said previously stored user profile containing said at least one user preference includes an identification of a user, but does disclose a database that includes customer preferences in order to identify information about parking with the customer in Col. 11, lines 30-33, and lines 51-53.

However, Zeitman discloses:

wherein said previously stored user profile containing said at least one user preference includes an identification of a user, (Col. 1, lines 46-49, database includes a user identification, along with parking facility availability). Zeitman discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of identifying a user with information about parking facility availability through a database.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention for the user profile to include an identification of a user with the motivation of identifying the user profile having parking characteristics with a user identification through a database.

As per claims 5, 12, 15, Squire et al does not specifically disclose wherein said previously stored user profile containing said at least one user preference is selected in response to receiving an identification of a user, but does disclose a database that includes customer preferences in order to identify information about parking with the customer in Col. 11, lines 30-33, and lines 51-53.

However, Zeitman discloses:

wherein said previously stored user profile containing said at least one user preference is selected in response to receiving an identification of a user, (Col. 4, lines 16-23, user ID read to determine the user's specifics pertaining to a parking reservation). Zeitman discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of identifying a user with information about parking facility availability through a database.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention for the user profile to be selected responsive to receiving an identification of a user with the motivation of identifying the user profile having parking characteristics with a user identification through a database.

As per claims 6, 16, Squire et al does not specifically disclose wherein the identification of the user is received by one of a card reader and a keypad interface, but does disclose a database that includes customer preferences in order to identify information about parking with the customer in Col. 11, lines 30-33, and lines 51-53.

However, Zeitman discloses:

wherein the identification of the user is received by one of a card reader and a keypad interface, (Col. 4, lines 16-23, card reader reads user identification data). Zeitman discloses this limitation in an analogous art for the purpose of using a card reader to identify a user with information about parking facility availability through a database.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention for the identification of the user to be received by one of a card

reader and a keypad interface with the motivation of identifying the user profile having parking characteristics with a user identification through a database.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments, see remarks, filed 3/19/07, with respect to claim 21 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of claim 21 has been withdrawn.

7. Applicant's arguments filed 3/19/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Squire reference does not teach every element of the claimed invention, arranged as they are in Claim 1. Applicant specifically argues that Squire does not disclose the following:

(1) Retentively storing a user profile in a profile database, wherein the user profile contains at least one user preference concerning parking parameters that pertain to a parking space; or

(2) Responsive to a user communication with the parking management system, retrieving from the profile database a previously stored user profile containing at least one user preference.

However, Squire discloses providing/submitting customer preferences to receive assignment of a parking space, which is communicated to a database processor in Col. 11, lines 30-33, and lines 51-53. In this case, preference information is passed to the database processor, and here, preference information represents the profile database

since at least one preference makes up a user profile. In addition, col. 11, line 53-Col. 12, line 15 of Squire shows a customer submitting his or her preference information, which represents the user communication. Squire also shows retrieval of ticket information, which is representative of user preferences since ticket information is no more than a hardcopy of assignment information, and to receive an assignment of a parking space, customer must enter in preference information, and therefore, both assignment information, and ticket information are representative of preference information. The retrieval of profile information is therefore represented by the retrieval of ticket information.

The applicant also argues that the present invention stresses the need for customers to input parking related information, every time that a parking space is required by amending the claims to disclose "retentively storing a user profile in the database" and according to applicant, Squire teaches that the disclosure thereof is only concerned with the immediate use of parking facilities. However, Squire does teach input of parking related information every time a parking space is required. Looking at the Abstract of Squire, it shows that in order to request a parking space, a garage customer inputs data concerning his or her preferences for parking. In addition, by adding the term "retentively", this term does not add to stressing the need for customers to input parking related information. Since Squire stores a user profile as explained above in the preceding paragraph, this information is retentively stored since storage has the capacity to retain the information.

In addition, the applicant argues that the Zeitman reference is concerned with data relating to a parking facility, such as parking facility availability, vehicle identification, user identification, billing information, time of use, and law enforcement information, but does not teach either retentively storing, or retrieving a previously stored, user profile that contains at least one user preference concerning parking space parameters. However, these limitations are disclosed by Squire as discussed above.

The applicant also argues that there is no motivation to combine the Squire and Zeitman references. However, both references disclose reserving parking spaces where a profile is set up for the user through a database, and used to make the reservations. Therefore, these references are combinable since they have the same focus; making parking reservations.

Claims 11 and 21 are independent claims that incorporate patentable subject matter of Claim 1, and are still rejected for at least reasons given in support thereof.

Claims 2-10 and 12-20 depend from Claims 1 and 11, respectively, and are still rejected for at least reasons given in support thereof .

Claims 2 and 12 are additionally rejected since the combination of Squire and Zeitman disclose that the previously stored user profile containing the at least one user preference includes an identification of a user. Specifically, in Col. 1, lines 46-49 of Zeitman, a database including a user identification, along with parking facility availability is disclosed for the purpose of identifying a user with information about parking facility availability through a database.

Claims 5 and 15 are additionally rejected since the combination of Squire and Zeitman disclose that the previously stored user profile containing at least one user preference is selected in response to receiving an identification of a user. Zeitman discloses this feature in Col. 4, lines 16-23. Here, a user ID is read to determine the user's specifics pertaining to a parking reservation for the purpose of identifying a user with information about parking facility availability through a database.

Claims 7 and 17 are additionally rejected since Squire discloses that the retentively stored user profile contains at least one user preference concerning a parking parameter selected from a group that includes at least one of a number of physical characteristics pertaining to a parking space. Squire discloses this in Col. 9, line 15. Here, a parking space descriptor that includes handicapped parking is disclosed, which represents the paring parameter that includes physical characteristics since a handicapped space includes physical characteristics pertaining to handicapped parking.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba K Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is 571-272-6734. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7238 [After final communications, labeled "Box AF"], 703-746-7239 [Official Communications], and 703-746-7150 [Informal/Draft Communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"].

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



A. R. B.
June 7, 2007